



*Supporting a sustainable business environment by providing Advocacy, Education and Assistance.*

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## Chamber Staff

Vickie Ledsworth  
President and CEO

Amy Lutz  
Membership Sales & Development

August 16, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
445 12th St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Clyburn, Copps, and McDowell:

On behalf of the more than 350 businesses that are members of the Blue Water Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to ask that you quickly approve the pending merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. AT&T is an active member of our Chamber and our community, and we believe this merger will only enhance the positive impact the company has already had on Port Huron.

This merger will allow AT&T to invest an additional \$8 billion in its 4G LTE network. With the new dollars, the company will be able to expand that high-speed wireless broadband network to over one million additional square miles, most of them in rural areas of the U.S. Once this network is complete, more than 97 percent of Americans would have wireless broadband access.

Lawrence Stricking, who is Assistant Secretary for Communication and Information at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, has said, "If you are a small business owner without access to high-speed Internet, you are effectively operating with one hand tied behind your back." He's right and it's time to untie that second hand. The higher speeds and better service that will result from this new \$8 billion investment will open new doors to the small businesses and entrepreneurs in our small town. They will be able to connect with new customers all over the country and even over the world, which would be a boon for our local economy.

The Blue Water Area Chamber of Commerce's mission is to support a sustainable business environment in the greater Port Huron area. Enhanced and more reliable access to high-speed wireless Internet will improve that environment, which is why I urge you to quickly approve this matter.

Sincerely,

Vickie Ledsworth, President  
Blue Water Area Chamber of Commerce